

Chico

**Golden
Empire
Amateur
Radio
Society, Inc.**

www.gearsw6rhc.org

"Dedicated to Public Service"

THE RADIATOR

W6RHC
IRLP #8170

P.O.Box 202 Chico, CA 95927

80 YEARS 1939 - 2019

September 2019 Newsletter

GEARS Founded August 13, 1939

News

Summer is moving along. I'm finally back in my home QTH after my house fire. Nice to be home.

The work continues on our new repeater project. Several members from both GEARS and GARS visited the site on St. John to begin the preparation work. Thanks very much for the hard work from Michael Favor N6FAV, Michael Bennett K6CEL, Michael A. Ellithorp, KF6OBI, Philip Zabell KI6SMN, Lenus De Ruess and others. This repeater will operate in addition to our current Forest Ranch repeater. Most of the equipment has been ordered and we plan on having this system operational by November.

Rick Hubbard is working on holding a Ham Cram prep class for anyone who needs to prepare for the Technician Class test. Saturday October 5th 2019, the day prior to the scheduled VEC Testing. Let him know if you know anyone who might be interested.

Don't forget the Steak Bake is September 7th at the Wildwood picnic area in Chico 3:30 - 7pm. We will celebrate our 80th anniversary there.



'73
Jim Matthews K6EST
jiminchico@yahoo.com
530-893-3314



Join GEARS on Facebook
www.facebook.com For timely
news and additional information.

September 2019 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8pm OARS Net	2 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	3 7:30pm GEARS Net	4	5 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	6	7 3:30 Steak Bake
8 8pm OARS Net	9 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	10 7:30pm GEARS Net	11	12 7pm PARS Net 6:30 GARS Meeting 7:30pm Simplex Net	13 7pm OARS Meeting	14 9am Chico Breakfast
15 8pm OARS Net	16 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	16 7:30pm GEARS Net	18	19 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	20 7pm GEARS Meeting	21
22 8pm OARS Net	23 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	24 7:30pm GEARS Net 7pm ARES Meeting	25	26 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	27	28 9am OARS Breakfast
29 8pm OARS Net	30 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net					

VEC Testing, FCC License Exam First Sunday of every even numbered month, at the Butte County Search and Rescue Building. Written test at 2:00 pm. For information or registration call Tom Rider, W6JS 514-9211

Chico Breakfast 2nd Saturday of the month 9 am Farmers Skillet 1818, 690 Rio Lindo Ave, Chico

GEARS Board Meeting 2nd Saturday of the month at Vitalant (formally Bloodsource) following the breakfast.

OARS Meeting Second Friday of the month, 7:00 pm, at St. Paul's Church Parish Hall, 1430 Pine St., Oroville

GARS Meeting Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm Lutheran Church Hall, 565 Main St. Artois.

Butte ARES Meeting 3rd Tuesday, Except Nov & Dec. at Chico Veterans Hall 7pm. Contact Dale Anderson, KK6EVX 826-3461 for more information.

GEARS Meeting, third Friday of the month, Butte County Search and Rescue Bldg., Chico. Social hour 6:00 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm.

OARS Breakfast 4th Saturday of the month 9am Gold Country Casino & Hotel, 4020 Olive Hwy, Oroville

NETS:

OARS Club Net Sunday 8pm 146.655 Mhz - PL 136.5

GARS Club Net: Monday, 7:00 pm 147.105 MHz + PL 110.09

Butte ARES Net Mondays 8pm 145.290 MHz - PL 110.9

Yuba Sutter Club Net Monday 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

GEARS Club Net Tuesdays 7:30 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9

PARS Club Net Thursday 7pm 145.290 - PL 110.9

Simplex Net Thursday 7:30 p.m. 146.52 no tone

Yuba Sutter ARES Net Thursdays 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9



GEARS STEAK BAKE

Saturday September 7th at the Wildwood Park picnic area (Manzanita Ave & East Ave.) in Chico 3:30 - 7pm.

Please contact Jim Matthews with any questions.
521-1412 or email jiminchico@yahoo.com

Murphy's Law and Ham Radio

John D. Dean, KØJDD

k0jdd@comcast.net

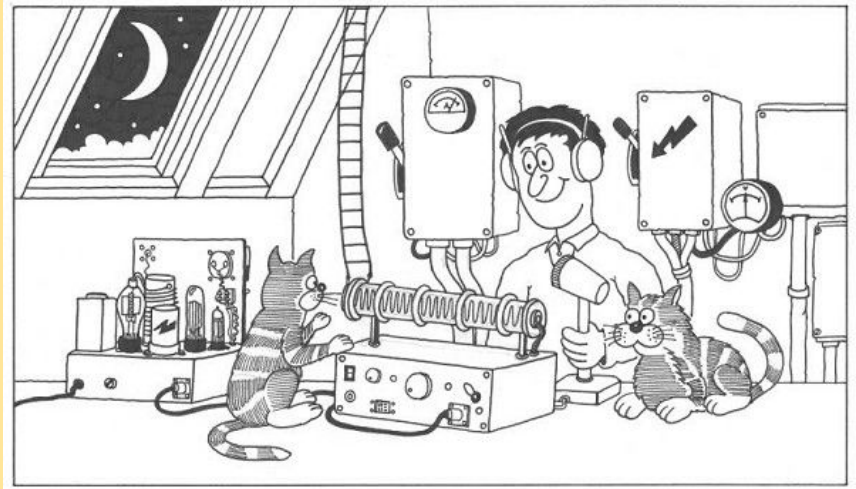
No matter how carefully you plan, Murphy will find a way.

Anyone familiar with technology of any sort is also familiar with Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

The field of Amateur Radio is not immune to the irresistible force and perfect truth of this epigram. To the contrary, evidence of the absolute nature of these laws abounds in our hobby. Who among us has not heard of a \$150 Svetlana GU-74B Power Tetrode sacrificing itself in order to protect the life of a 29 cent fuse?

In Amateur Radio, Murphy's Law has many corollaries:

- a) Any wire cut to length will be too short and at least one technician will try to rectify the situation by trimming off more wire.
- b) A dropped tool will always land in a linear amplifier where it will do the most damage.
- c) Interchangeable parts, don't.



In the same way that parents are inextricably bound to Laura's First Law of Parenthood, "A sick child will never vomit in the toilet," so we radio amateurs find ourselves under the pervasive influence and effects of Murphy. I now offer you prima facie proof of this, by relating a true story concerning the effects of Murphy's Law on Amateur Radio.

Best Laid Plans

I installed a 40 foot tower structure at my home in 2008. This installation was meticulously planned and executed. As part of my preproject research, I devoured every article, tip sheet, blog and tale of woe I could find on the subject of tower installation.

Being that my shack is located in a wooded part of my property, I was especially concerned with calculating the proper clearances on all sides of the tower to allow for safe rotation of the beam antenna. The tower was carefully sited to avoid removing any of my desirable Red Oak trees.

I calculated that I would need a minimum of twice the turning radius of my antenna (9 feet) to the nearest tree, in all directions from the center of the tower, at a height of 41 feet 6 inches. Higher up on the mast at 44 feet 9 inches would be a VHF/UHF Yagi antenna, but the clearance for this antenna was not of primary concern; at 6 feet in length it was a full 33 percent less than the turning radius of the larger and more expensive beam.

I methodically measured and pruned until I was absolutely certain that the full 18 feet of clearance had been achieved in all directions, with a little extra cushion thrown in. On December 26, 2008 I triumphantly hoisted the beam antenna into its final resting place and I embarked upon a wonderful period of HF operating bliss.

Murphy's Maelstrom

Fast forward to Monday, June 1, 2009. On this date the winds at my shack were sustained at 12 mi/h from the south with gusts up to 24 mi/h. This was the day Murphy arrived. Did a tree fall into the tower wrecking my beautiful beam antenna? No. Was a limb that should have been removed torn loose and sent hurtling into my precious beam antenna leaving destruction in its wake? No. Did a mini-cyclone pick up a full grown rhododendron bush from the nearby nursery and plop it neatly and precisely on top of my pride and joy? No.

In actuality, nothing whatsoever happened to the beam antenna, but as the photographic evidence shows the VHF/UHF antenna was systematically and thoroughly ruined.

Precisely 23 feet to the south of the tower base stood a 65 foot poplar tree. (Some call this a quaking aspen.) Given that this tree was listing approximately 7° in a direction away from the tower and was a comfortable distance from ground zero, I had deemed it to be of little concern. I have since learned that 24 mi/h winds do in fact possess the power to bend a 65 foot poplar tree over into a 90° angle, at a height of 40 feet, without breaking said tree. This miracle of nature is how the offending tree was able to repeatedly assault my VHF/UHF antenna from directly above, without any discernible damage to the tree.

All quaking aspen within 100 feet of the tower have now been removed and I have learned my lesson. With Murphy as my witness I vow that in the future, whenever working with towers and antennas, I will always endeavor to look in every direction — including straight up.

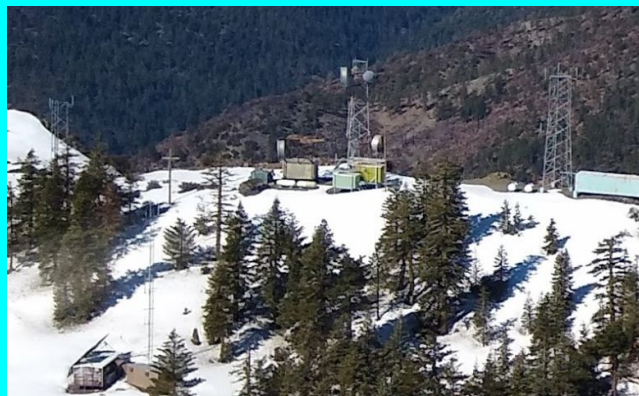
John D. Dean, KØJDD, an ARRL member, was first licensed in 2007. He resides in Woodbury, Minnesota with his spouse, Carol. He is still harboring numerous quaking aspen.

GEARS / GARS Repeater Project

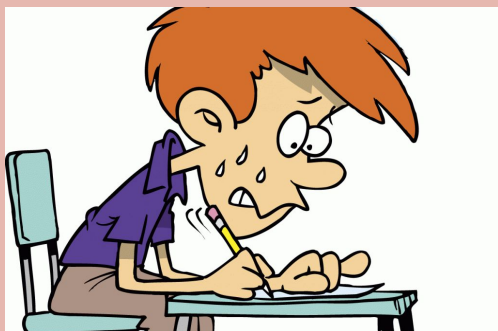
The Mount St. John repeater project continues. Several members from both GEARs and GARs continue to work on the site at St. John to continue the preparation work. Thanks very much for the hard work from Michael Favor N6FAV, Michael Bennett K6CEL, Michael A. Ellithorp, KF6OBI, Philip Zabel K16SMN, Lenus De Ruess and others.

The site building has required a large amount of repairs before it's ready for equipment. Our goal is to have the new repeater on the air by November 8th. The anniversary of the Camp Fire. If you'd like to help please contact Michael

michaelf@favorsoftware.com



Ham Cram Prep Course



Rick Hubbard is putting together a Ham Cram prep class for anyone who needs to prepare for the Technician Class test. Saturday October 5th, the day prior to the scheduled Oct VEC Testing. Let him know if you have anyone who might be interested. Time and location to be announced.

For information contact Rick rick.hubbard.email@gmail.com

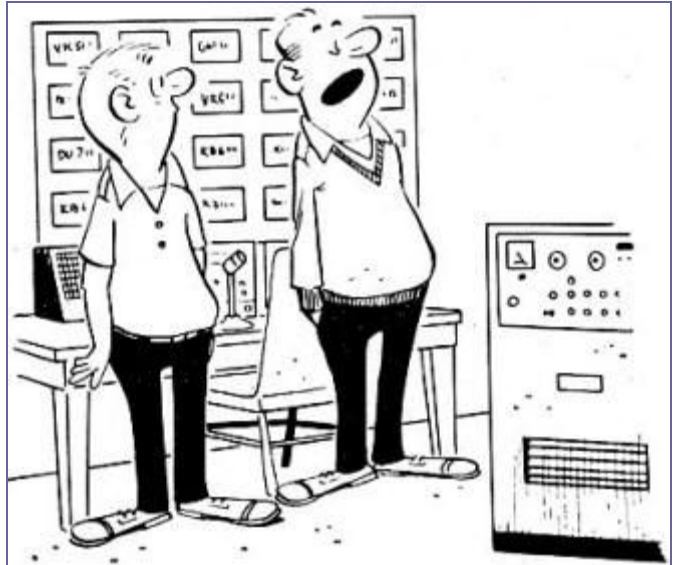
Club Officers:

President.....Jim Matthews, K6EST
Vice-President.....Kent Hastings, WA6ZFY
Secretary.....Stephan Lonis, KM6RSO
Treasurer.....Kathy Favor, K6FAV
Director.....Rick Hubbard, KI6VOS
Director..... Dale Anderson, KK6EVX
Past President.....Tom Rider, W6JS
VEC.....Tom Rider, W6JS

DO YOU HAVE OLD QST MAGAZINES IN SEARCH OF A NEW HOME?

Gene Wright has that future home for your QST's, through his project to place QST Magazines in professional offices throughout Chico. Labels placed on the QST's will advertise the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society, encourage the readers to consider Ham Radio as an interesting hobby, one of not only fun, but which provides opportunities for many and various community services.

Bring your QST's to Gene at the Club meetings or contact: Gene WA6ZRT 530-519-2519



"Built it myself - just the basic tools; pliers, money, soldering iron, money, screwdriver, money..."



"Congratulations! You've made the down payment - now that wasn't so difficult, was it?"



"Wottaya mean, the reception was better a minute ago? I had the lead-in attached to the lightning rod."